

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 13422 01 OF 02 121634Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----033397 121638Z /41
O 121625Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2944
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 MOSCOW 13422

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4
TAGS: PINT, PINS, CSCE, SHUM, UR
SUBJECT: MRS. SLEPAK ADDRESSES LETTER TO PRESIDENT
CARTER

REF: MOSCOW 12707

SUMMARY: MRS. SLEPAK JUNE 10 GAVE EMBOFF A LETTER
ADDRESSED TO PRESIDENT CARTER IN WHICH SHE APPEALS
FOR ASSISTANCE IN THE FAMILY'S STRUGGLE TO REACH
ISRAEL. MRS. SLEPAK SAID SHE EXPECTS HER HUSBAND
WILL BE SENTENCED TO FIVE YEARS IN JAIL FOR HOOLI-
GANISM. SHE HERSELF HAS BEEN RESTRICTED TO THE
MOSCOW CITY LIMITS. END SUMMARY.

1. MRS. SLEPAK RECENTLY TELEPHONED EMBASSY TO REQUEST
MEETING WITH AN EMBASSY OFFICER IN HER APARTMENT.
SHE INSISTED IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE FOR HER TO COME
TO THE EMBASSY OR TO AN EMBASSY APARTMENT BECAUSE
THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES WOULD NOT PERMIT IT. SHE
SAID SHE COULD NOT GO INTO THE MATTER ON THE PHONE,
BUT THAT SHE WANTED TO ASK FOR THE EMBASSY'S HELP.

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2. IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT THE PRESIDENT HAS
IN THE PAST CORRESPONDED WITH VLADIMIR SLEPAK, THAT
THE VICE PRESIDENT RECEIVED ONE OF THE SLEPAK SONS,
AND THAT MRS. SLEPAK HAS APPLIED TO EMIGRATE TO
THE UNITED STATES, AN EMBASSY OFFICER WAS SENT
TO THE SLEPAK APARTMENT JUNE 10. HE REACHED THE
APARTMENT WITHOUT DIFFICULTY AND NOTICED NO

SURVEILLANCE. MRS. SLEPAK CONFIRMED IN PERSON THAT SHE FEARED DETENTION OR ARREST IF SHE SOUGHT TO ENTER EMBASSY OR EVEN EMBASSY APARTMENT. MRS. SLEPAK ALSO CONFIRMED THAT BOTH SHE AND HER HUSBAND VLADIMIR HAVE BEEN CHARGED WITH HOOLIGANISM (REFTTEL) BUT COULD NOT EXPLAIN WHY SHE HAD NOT BEEN INCARCERATED ALONG WITH HIM. SHE HAS BEEN TOLD NOT TO LEAVE MOSCOW AND EXPECTS TO BE TAKEN IN BY THE KGB FOR QUESTIONING WITHIN A FEW DAYS.

3. MRS. SLEPAK SAID SHE COULD NOT GUESS HOW THE AUTHORITIES WOULD PROCEED AGAINST HER, BUT SHE WAS CERTAIN VLADIMIR WILL RECEIVE THE MAXIMUM SENTENCE OF FIVE YEARS. SHE EXPECTS HIS TRIAL WILL BE HELD IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

4. IN SPITE OF THE LEGAL COMPLICATIONS EACH MEMBER OF THE FAMILY NOW FACES, MRS. SLEPAK SAID SHE WILL AGAIN APPEAL BY TELEGRAM TO BREZHNEV AND THE SUPREME SOVIET FOR PERMISSION TO EMIGRATE.

5. MARIYA SLEPAK WAS DEPRESSED AND ON THE VERGE OF TEARS AS SHE SPOKE OF HER FAMILY'S LONG YEARS OF WAITING AND WRITING FOR HELP IN ITS QUEST TO REACH ISRAEL. EMBOFF'S VISIT SEEMED TO CHEER HER CONSIDERABLY, AND FRIENDS ARE STAYING WITH HER VIRTUALLY
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AROUND THE CLOCK.

6. AT END OF VISIT, MRS. SLEPAK ASKED THAT A LETTER BE CONVEYED TO PRESIDENT CARTER (TEXT FOLLOWS). SHE SAID SHE PLANNED TO PROVIDE THE TEXT OF THE LETTER TO WESTERN CORRESPONDENTS ON JUNE 13.

7. TEXT OF SLEPAK LETTER FOLLOWS (ORIGINAL BEING POUCHED TO EUR/SOV, REGISTRY NUMBER 3647816). BEGIN
QUOTE: THE WHITE HOUSE, PRESIDENT OF THE U.S. JIMMY CARTER
DEAR MR. CARTER
I TURN TO YOU AT A DIFFICULT TIME FOR MY FAMILY AND FOR MYSELF.

YOU KNOW OF OUR TRAGIC SITUATION. A FINAL REPRISAL ("RASPRAVA") AGAINST OUR FAMILY IS NOW BEING PREPARED.

I AND MY HUSBAND VLADIMIR SLEPAK, WHO IS IN PRISON, ARE THREATENED BY A TERM OF IMPRISONMENT OF UP TO FIVE YEARS FOR THE FACT THAT, DRIVEN TO DESPAIR, WE STOOD ON THE BALCONY OF OUR HOME HOLDING A

BANNER WHICH READ: "LET US GO TO OUR SON IN ISRAEL."

FOR EIGHT YEARS WE HAVE BEEN TRYING TO REALIZE OUR
LEGAL RIGHT TO EMIGRATE FROM THE USSR. AND NOW OUR
LAWFUL ACTIONS ARE JUDGED BY THE AUTHORITIES AND
ORGANS OF THE KGB TO BE AN ACT OF HOOLIGANISM,
NOTABLE FOR ITS EXCEPTIONAL CYNICISM AND "PARTICULAR
IMPERTINENCE."

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2945
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AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 MOSCOW 13422

EXDIS

OUR YOUNGER SON LEONID IS NOW 19, AND HE IS
THREATENED BY A PRISON TERM OF UP TO THREE YEARS
FOR REFUSAL TO SERVE IN THE SOVIET ARMY, BECAUSE
HE DOES NOT CONSIDER IT POSSIBLE TO TAKE THE
MILITARY OATH WHEN HE, ALONG WITH OUR ENTIRE
FAMILY, IS A CITIZEN OF ISRAEL.

I APPEAL TO YOU, TO THE PRESIDENT OF A GREAT
POWER, AS ONE WHO SIGNED THE HELSINKI AGREEMENT.
DO EVERYTHING YOU CAN TO SAVE OUR FAMILY*

WITH SINCERE RESPECT AND HOPE, MARIYA SLEPAK.

JUNE 10, 1978
MOSCOW, ULITSA GOR'KOGO 15-77. END QUOTE. TOON

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